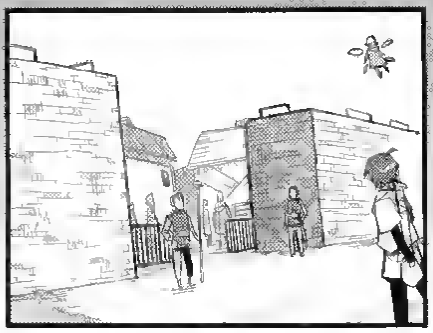
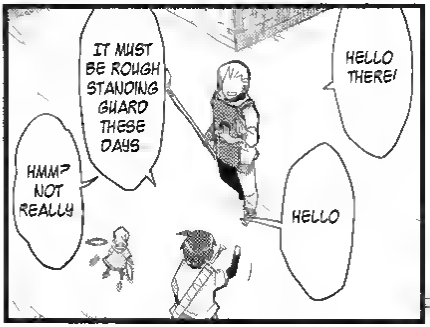
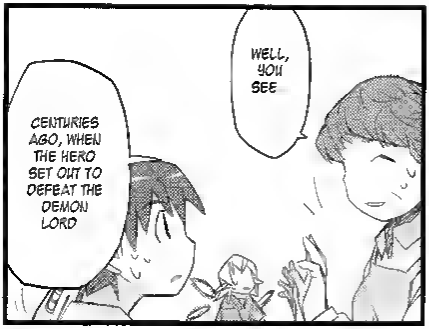
-Chapter 2-

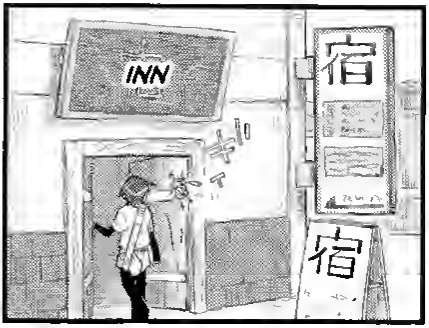



IT MUST BE ROUGH STANDING GUARD THESE DAYS
HELLO THERE!
HMM? NOT REALLY
HELLO

HAH HAH HAH!
JUST GIVE THEM A GOOD KICK AND THEY'LL ALL RUN AWAY
OH, BECAUSE OF THE MONSTERS, YOU MEAN? WELL, THE MONSTERS ARE REALLY WEAK THEY'RE NOT MUCH WORSE THAN WILD DOGS

...HA. HA. HA...


WELL, YOU SEE
CENTURIES AGO, WHEN THE HERO SET OUT TO DEFEAT THE DEMON LORD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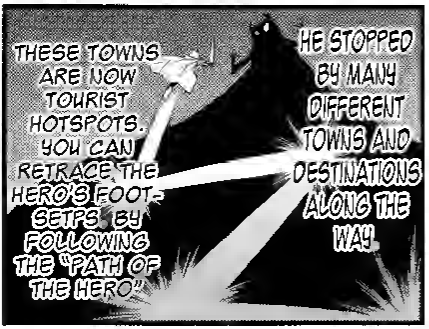
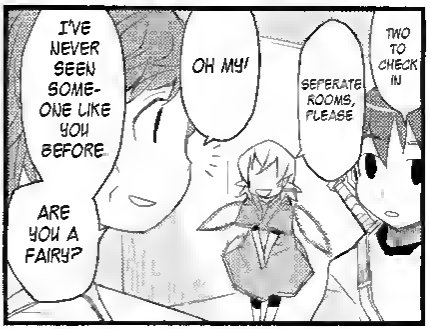
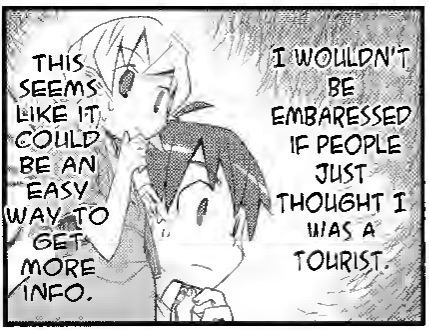
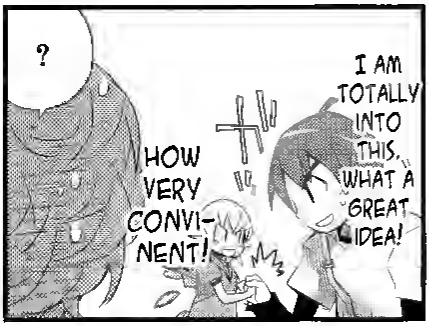

THESE TOWNS ARE NOW TOURIST HOTSPOTS. YOU CAN RETRACE THE HERO'S FOOTSTEPS BY FOLLOWING THE "PATH OF THE HERO."
HE STOPPED BY MANY DIFFERENT TOWNS AND DESTINATIONS ALONG THE WAY.


I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE LIKE YOU BEFORE.
ARE YOU A FAIRY?
OH MY!
SEPERATE ROOMS, PLEASE
TWO TO CHECK IN


THIS SEEMS LIKE IT COULD BE AN EASY WAY TO GET MORE INFO.
I WOULDN'T BE EMBARESSED IF PEOPLE JUST THOUGHT I WAS A TOURIST.

ARE YOU WALKING THE "PATH OF THE HERO"?
THE
THE PATH OF WHO?
ARE YOU TOURISTS?
YOU MUST HAVE COME THROUGH FROM HEROVILLE, RIGHT?

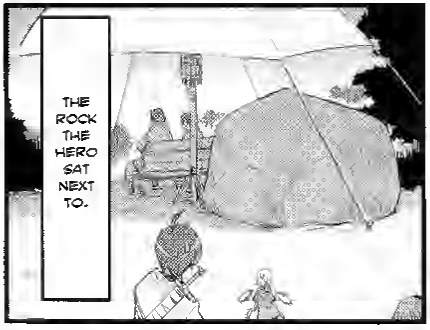

?
I AM TOTALLY INTO THIS. WHAT A GREAT IDEA!
HOW VERY CONVI-NENT!

WHY ARE THEY SO EXCITED ALL OF A SUDDEN?
IS IT THE METHOD WITH WHICH ONE CAN TRAIN TO BECOME A HERO? PLEASE, EXPLAIN!
W-WHAT!? WHAT IS THIS? TELL ME MORE RIGHT AWAY!

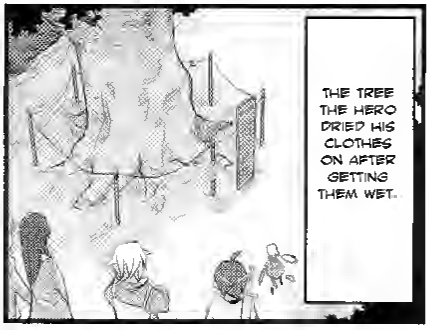
PATH OF THE HERO HEADQUARTERS
勇者の道 総合

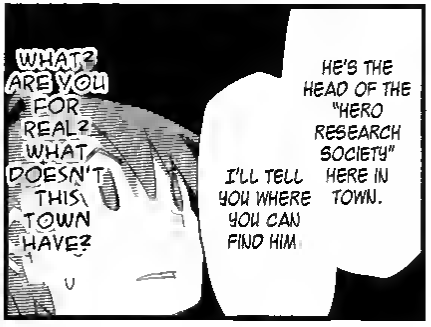
勇者飯
THE RESTAURANT THE HERO ATE AT.

SERIOUSLY? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START MAKING FUN OF THIS...
PATH OF THE HERO INFORMATION DESK


THE ROCK THE HERO SAT NEXT TO.

OH, I THINK I KNOW WHO CAN HELP YOU
YES!
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THE HERO?
THIS GUY MR KUDADA AGE 45

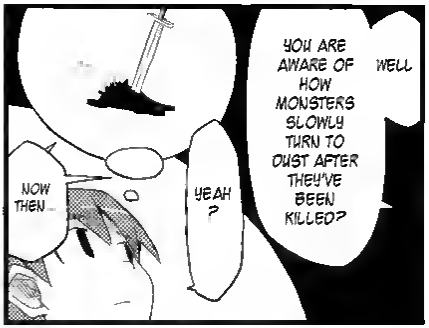

THE TREE THE HERO DRIED HIS CLOTHES ON AFTER GETTING THEM WET.

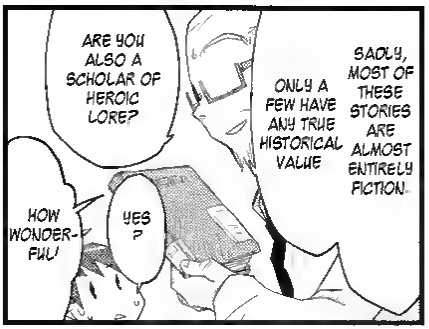

WHAT? ARE YOU FOR REAL? WHAT DOESN'T THIS TOWN HAVE?
I'LL TELL YOU WHERE YOU CAN FIND HIM
HE'S THE HEAD OF THE "HERO RESEARCH SOCIETY" HERE IN TOWN.

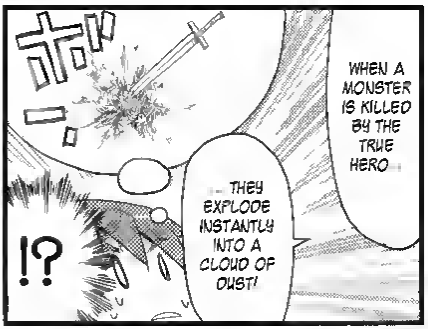
WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING HERE AGAIN?
SO BASICALLY, HE DIDN'T ACTUALLY DO ANYTHING IMPORTANT IN THIS TOWN?

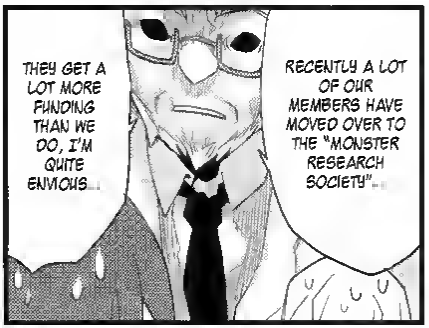
SORRY ABOUT THAT. SO YOU WANTED TO LEARN ABOUT THE HERO'S SPECIAL ABILITIES?
YES
PLEASE TELL US EVERY-THING YOU KNOW!
WE'RE VERY INTER-ESTED IN THIS SUB-JECT!

PLEASE, COME IN!
I APOLOGIZE FOR ALL THE CLUTTER IN HERE.
WOAH!
SO MANY BOOKS...


YOU ARE AWARE OF HOW MONSTERS SLOWLY TURN TO DUST AFTER THEY'VE BEEN KILLED?
WELL
YEAH?
NOW THEN...

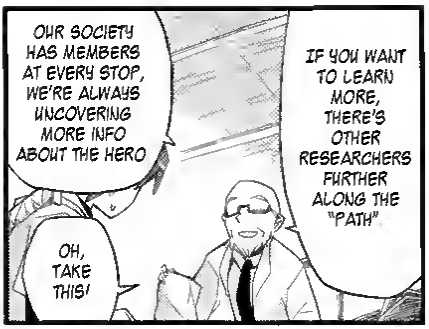

ARE YOU ALSO A SCHOLAR OF HEROIC LORE?
SADLY, MOST OF THESE STORIES ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY FICTION.
ONLY A FEW HAVE ANY TRUE HISTORICAL VALUE
YES?
HOW WONDER-FUL!


WHEN A MONSTER IS KILLED BY THE TRUE HERO...
THEY EXPLODE INSTANTLY INTO A CLOUD OF DUST!
!?

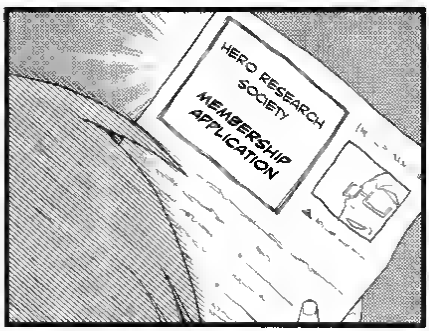

RECENTLY A LOT OF OUR MEMBERS HAVE MOVED OVER TO THE "MONSTER RESEARCH SOCIETY"...
THEY GET A LOT MORE FUNDING THAN WE DO, I'M QUITE ENVIOUS...

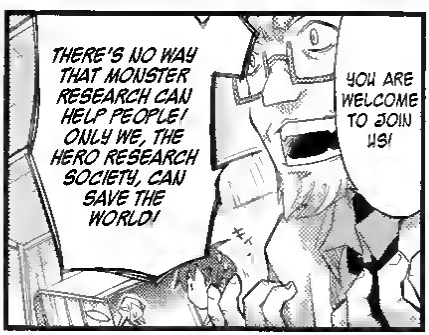
THIS MAKES IT EASY FOR PEOPLE TO IDENTIFY THE HERO! YOU CAN TELL BY LOOKING AT THEM FIGHT!
AS IT IS TO BE EXPECTED OF THE HERO! HE HAS THIS MYSTERIOUS POWER THAT MAKES HIM UNMISTAKABLE.

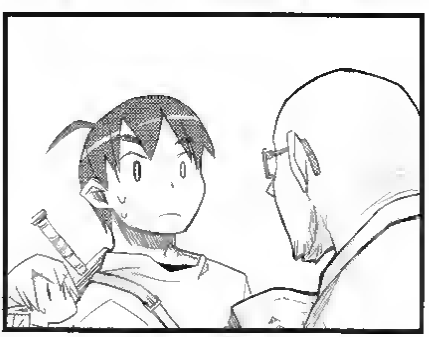
PEOPLE THOUGHT MONSTERS WERE JUST A THING OF MYTH NOT TOO LONG AGO!
BUT SINCE MONSTERS HAVE REAPPEARED, IT STANDS TO REASON THE HERO WILL TOO!
YOU AGREE WITH ME TOO, DON'T YOU?
IT STANDS TO REASON!

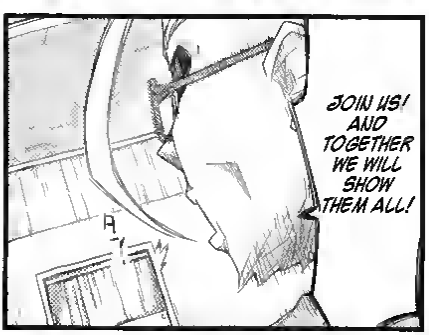

OUR SOCIETY HAS MEMBERS AT EVERY STOP, WE'RE ALWAYS UNCOVERING MORE INFO ABOUT THE HERO
IF YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE, THERE'S OTHER RESEARCHERS FURTHER ALONG THE "PATH"
OH, TAKE THIS!

NOW WHERE DID I-
AH! HERE WE GO!
OH YES, I DO RECALL READING SOMETHING ABOUT A MARK THE HERO HAS ON HIS BODY
BIRTH-MARKS?

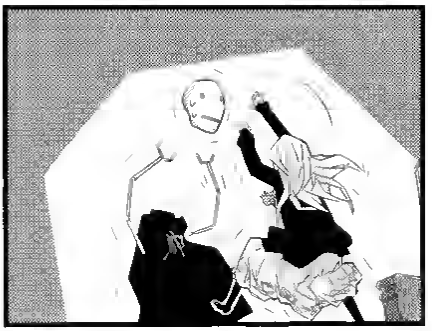

HERO RESEARCH SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

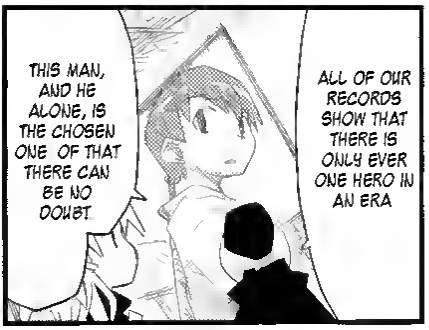

THERE'S NO WAY THAT MONSTER RESEARCH CAN HELP PEOPLE! ONLY WE, THE HERO RESEARCH SOCIETY, CAN SAVE THE WORLD!
YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

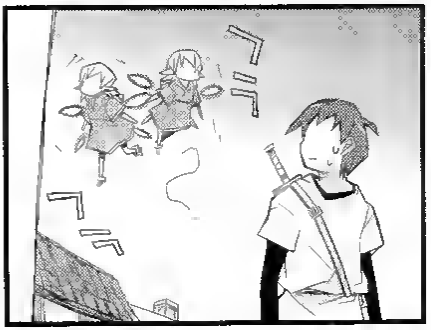


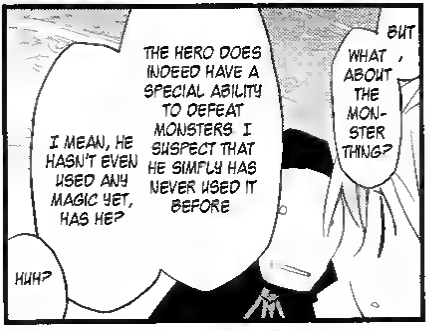

JOIN US! AND TOGETHER WE WILL SHOW THEM ALL!

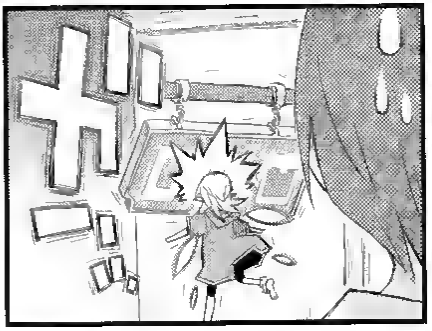
.....
SO I GUESS WE CAN JUST CROSS THIS OFF AS MERELY A MYTH
THIS REPORT HAS NEVER BEEN VERIFIED
WELL.....



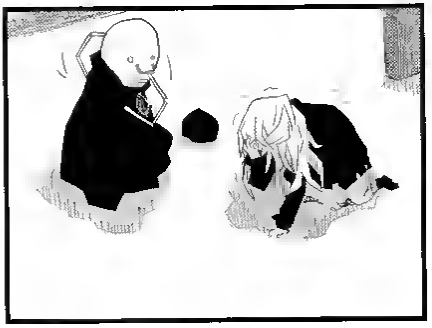

ALL OF OUR RECORDS SHOW THAT THERE IS ONLY EVER ONE HERO IN AN ERA
THIS MAN, AND HE ALONE, IS THE CHOSEN ONE OF THAT THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT

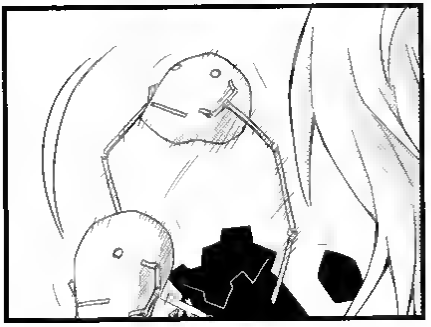


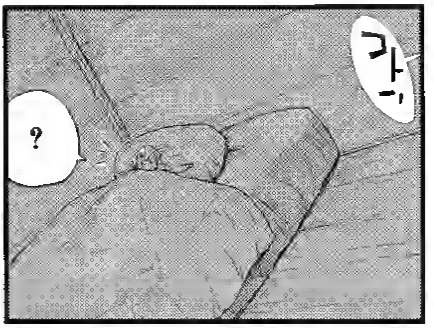

BUT WHAT, ABOUT THE MONSTER THING?
THE HERO DOES INDEED HAVE A SPECIAL ABILITY TO DEFEAT MONSTERS. I SUSPECT THAT HE SIMPLY HAS NEVER USED IT BEFORE
I MEAN, HE HASN'T EVEN USED ANY MAGIC YET, HAS HE?
HUH?



THE HERO KNOWS HOW TO USE MAGIC?
YES
HOW COME THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD OF IT? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER?
.....

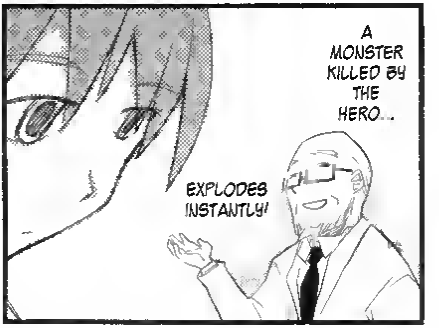




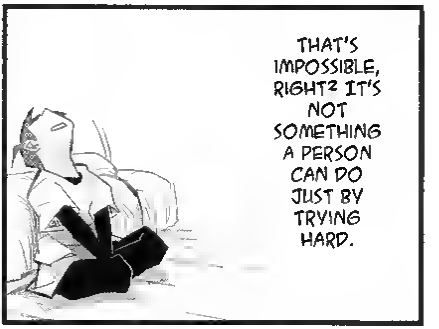

?

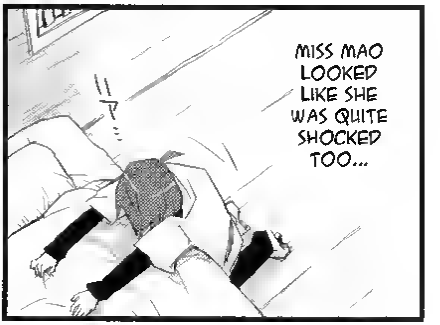
WHAT IF...
THIS MARK REALLY DOES PROVE I'M A HERO, BUT THE REASON I'M SO WEAK IS BECAUSE I DON'T WORK HARD ENOUGH?

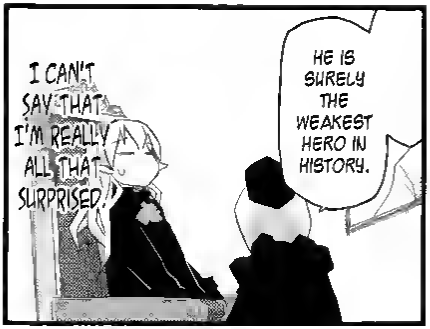
WHERE DID HE RUN OFF TOO AT THIS HOUR?
ARE YOU HERE?
MISTER ALSHA?

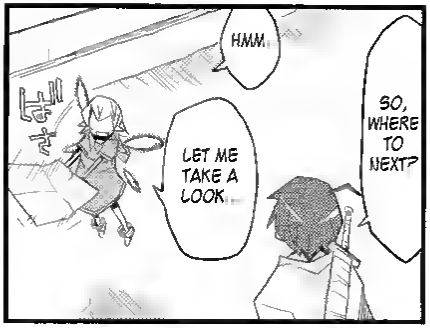

A MONSTER KILLED BY THE HERO...
EXPLODES INSTANTLY!

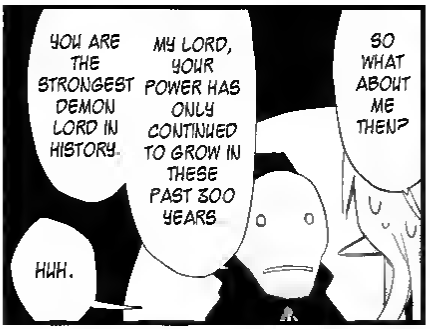
!

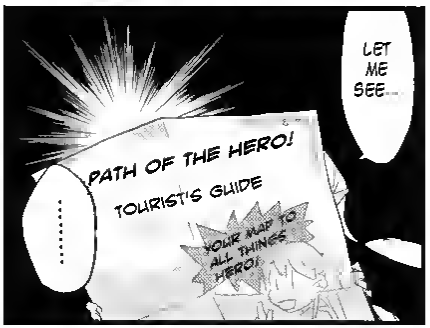

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT? IT'S NOT SOMETHING A PERSON CAN DO JUST BY TRYING HARD.

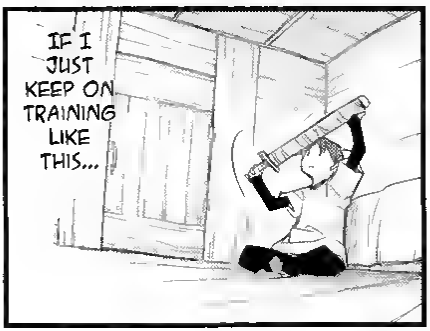

MISS MAO LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS QUITE SHOCKED TOO...


HE IS SURELY THE WEAKEST HERO IN HISTORY.
I CAN'T SAY THAT I'M REALLY ALL THAT SURPRISED.


HMM.
SO, WHERE TO NEXT?
LET ME TAKE A LOOK...

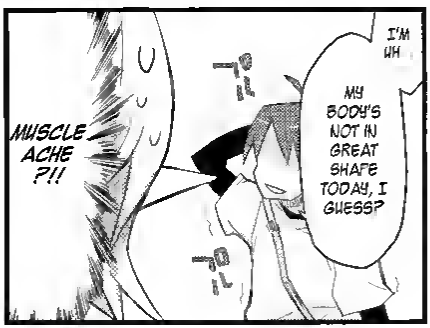

SO WHAT ABOUT ME THEN?
MY LORD, YOUR POWER HAS ONLY CONTINUED TO GROW IN THESE PAST 300 YEARS
YOU ARE THE STRONGEST DEMON LORD IN HISTORY.
HUH.


LET ME SEE...
PATH OF THE HERO!
TOURIST'S GUIDE
YOUR MAP TO ALL THINGS HERO!
.....


IF I JUST KEEP ON TRAINING LIKE THIS...

WELL IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T WE JUST GO SLOWLY TODAY?
?
IT'S NOT TOO FAR WHY DO YOU ASK?
IS IT FAR?
AND KEEP GOING NORTH, WE'LL FIND THE NEXT TOWN
IF WE TAKE THIS ROAD

WILL I EVENTUALLY GET USED TO THIS?


I'M UH
MY BODY'S NOT IN GREAT SHAPE TODAY, I GUESS?
MUSCLE ACHE?!!

COMET SCANS

THIS ONE WILL BE SLOWER THAN "SHINOZAKI-SAN", SINCE I'M THE ONLY STAFF WORKING ON IT. IT ALSO MEANS IT'S A BIT ROUGHER AND MAY HAVE MISTAKES. HOPEFULLY IT ISN'T TOO BAD THOUGH.

NOT MUCH TO SAY ABOUT CHAPTER 2. IT'S VERY WORDY AND HAD A LOT OF THINGS I NEEDED TO (BADLY) REDRAW. I ALSO DON'T FIND IT TO BE ALL THAT FUNNY. CHAPTER 3 WILL BE MUCH MORE ENTERTAINING, BUT NOT ANY EASIER TO DO. UGH.